

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An architectural covering comprising:
at least one cord;

a cord encapsulating member; and

a locking member connected to the cord and moveable with respect to the cord encapsulating member, the locking member selectively engaged with or disengaged from the cord encapsulating member to inhibit or permit movement, respectively, of the locking member and the cord relative to the cord encapsulating member.
2. The architectural covering of claim 1, further including a handle moveably disposed on the cord encapsulating member.
3. The architectural covering of claim 2, wherein the locking member is moveably attached to the handle.
4. The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member includes a hand-actuatable extension.
5. The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the cord encapsulating member is an elongated wand.
6. The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the cord encapsulating member includes a slot.
7. The architectural covering of claim 6, furthering including a link connecting the cord to the locking member.
8. The architectural covering of claim 7, wherein the link extends through the slot.

9. The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an interior surface of the cord encapsulating member.

10. The architectural covering of claim 1, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an exterior surface of the cord encapsulating member.

11. A system for use in an architectural covering having at least one cord, the system comprising:

a cord encapsulating member; and

a locking member connected to the cord and moveable with respect to the cord encapsulating member, the locking member selectively engaged with or disengaged from the cord encapsulating member to inhibit or permit movement, respectively, of the locking member and the cord relative to the cord encapsulating member.

12. The system of claim 11, further including a handle moveably disposed on the cord encapsulating member.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the locking member is moveably attached to the handle.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the locking member includes a hand-actuatable extension.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the cord encapsulating member is an elongated wand.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the cord encapsulating member includes a slot.

17. The system of claim 16, further including a link connecting the cord to the locking member.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the link extends through the slot.
19. The system of claim 11, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an interior surface of the cord encapsulating member.
20. The system of claim 11, wherein the locking member is selectively engaged with or disengaged from an exterior surface of the cord encapsulating member.
21. An architectural covering having a first fixed rail, a second movable rail, a shade portion, at least one cord extending through the fixed rail and secured to the movable rail, and a cord actuator and locking system comprising:
 - a cord encapsulating member; and
 - a locking member connected to the cord and moveable with respect to the cord encapsulating member, the locking member selectively engaged with or disengaged from the cord encapsulating member to inhibit or permit movement, respectively, of the locking member and the cord relative to the cord encapsulating member.
22. The covering of claim 21, wherein the cord encapsulating member is pivotably attached to the upper rail.
23. The covering of claim 21, wherein the cord encapsulating member is integrally formed with the upper rail.